

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. GEO. L. GOODALE has returned from his tour around the world.

A NEW GENUS of orchids, from Australia, *Adelopetalum* by name, is described by R. D. Fitzgerald in *Jour. Bot.* (May).

DR. LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD has resigned his chair at Syracuse University to accept the professorship of botany at De Pauw University.

DECADES IX and X of Underwood and Cook's *Hepaticae Americanae* have been issued, and two more are almost ready for distribution.

DR. A. N. BERLESE has been called to the position of professor of botany and plant-pathology at the Royal School of Viticulture, at Avellino.

DR. W. A. SETCHELL, assistant in biology at Harvard University has been appointed to a similar position at Yale University. The department is under the charge of Prof. S. J. Smith.

IN THE *Journal of Botany* (May), the editor protests vigorously against Professor Henslow's theory of environment as an origin of species, as being a theory unsupported by facts.

DR. W. C. STURGIS, who has been assistant in cryptogamic botany at Harvard University has been appointed botanist to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment *vice* Dr. Thaxter, resigned.

DR. B. L. ROBINSON, assistant in the Gray Herbarium for the past year, has been compelled to resign the position on account of ill health resulting from poisoning due to the arsenic used in preserving the specimens.

IN THE report of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture for 1890, it is shown that forestry is taught in the Agricultural Colleges of 17 states, and in 8 of them it is only incidentally touched upon.

VASEYANTHUS is a new genus of cucurbits from Lower California, described in *Zoe* (Feb.) by A. Cogniaux. Associated with Dr. George Vasey in the name is that of his assistant Mr. Rose, the plant appearing as *V. Rosei*.

A CATALOGUE of Nebraska phanerogams has been published by Professor Swezey, of Doane College, Crete, Nebr. The list, numbering 533 species and varieties, contains only those plants represented in the college herbarium.

DR. ROLAND THAXTER, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment station, has been elected assistant professor of the cryptogamic botany at Harvard University. In the probable absence of Dr. Farlow next year he will have charge of his work.

DR. AND MRS. BRITTON sailed for England June 6. Dr. B. takes a portion of Dr. Morong's S. American plants to Kew for determination and Mrs. B. expects to visit several of the bryological herbaria for study and comparison of American mosses.

IN THE third annual report of the Agricultural Experiment Station of West Virginia, the botanist, Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, speaks of a great variety of subjects, chiefly by way of instructing his constituency as to the noxious and useful plants of their flora.

DR. LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD spent several months of the past winter in collecting in Florida and Cuba for the Department of Agriculture. He brought back not only a considerable collection of Phanerogams, but also a large number of Hepaticae and Mosses.

DR. E. KOEHNE, of Friedenau, well known as the editor of Just's *Jahresberichte*, and for his work upon the Lythraceae and other orders, has been invested with the title "Professor"—a title of more difficult acquisition, and hence more honorable, in Germany than in this country.

THE POISONING of plants having proved ineffectual has been entirely abandoned at the Gray Herbarium. The tightness of cases and the handling of the sheets are relied upon to preserve the specimens. Any which become infested may be treated to a stay in CS₂ vapor, or some other insecticide.

IN THE *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* (May), Messrs. Anderson and Kelsey describe some new algae from Montana; Mr. Murray describes a new *Myriophyllum* from Michigan and calls it *M. Farwellii* from its discoverer; and Dr. Porter characterizes a new *Liatris* from North Carolina, to be known as *L. Helleri*. The *Liatris* is from the top of Blowing Rock Mt., Watauga Co.

IN HIS NOTES on the histology of *Polysiphonia fastigiata* (*Jour. Bot.* May), Professor R. J. H. Gibson concludes that protoplasmic continuity is maintained only in young cells, and that the delicate strands which appear on both sides of the "plug" in older cells represent simply a delicate fringe arising from the margin of the plug itself and quite independent of the protoplasmic contents of the canal.

PROFESSOR CONWAY MACMILLAN, in *Amer. Nat.* (Feb.), gives an interesting table showing the comparative distribution southward of certain distinctly boreal genera of phanerogams by the Rocky and Appalachian mountain systems. The conclusion drawn is that the loftier mountain ranges have caused the extension southward of a correspondingly larger number of species. The table, as prepared, shows that twice as many species of northern genera have come southward along the twice as lofty Rocky Mountains as along the Appalachians.

M. PIERRE VIALA describes in the *Revue générale de Botanique* for April a disease of the vine which has caused considerable loss to the nurserymen in the central and southwestern parts of France during the past three years. The malady attacks the grafts and prevents the union of the stock and scion, which are usually kept for some time in sand in order to retard the growth of the buds until the proper season. *Sclerotinia Fuckeliana* is the cause of the trouble, and it seems to be transmitted from year to year in the sand. A thorough drying of this in the sun before using seems fatal to the spores and a preventive of the disease.

A PRIVATE LETTER from Lt. R. E. Peary, of the U. S. Navy, who proposes to attempt to reach the north pole on foot through Greenland, contains the following information that will be of interest to botanists: "I leave this country next June for Whale Sound, Greenland, from which point as a base I propose to determine the northern terminus of Greenland over the inland ice. I expect to be absent from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. The region about Whale Sound is rich in Arctic plants, Kane having brought home 106 species of Phanerogams, and 42 species of Cryptogams, several of which were new. I am under the impression that with the exception of the above collection, and Hayes' from the same region, there are few plants from the Greenland higher latitude in this country, and that fresh specimens, subjected to modern methods of scientific research, would yield valuable results. Some specimens which I brought home from Greenland in 1886, have been considered valuable." Since the above was written, arrangements have been made with Lt. Peary to turn over his collections to the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences.

It is a well-known fact, that abnormally developed leaves are far from rare in nature, but one of the most peculiar forms is undoubtedly that to which Russell has called attention.¹ It is the so-called ascidia-form, which has been observed in several families, although as a mere abnormality. The appearance of such leaves varies from cornet-like, where the two margins of the blade of a leaf have grown together at the base, to hood-like, where the margins are entirely united for their whole length. This last form has been observed by Russell, in the leaflets of the uppermost leaves of *Vicia sepium*, intermixed with cornet-shaped and normal ones. In these abnormal leaflets, the cells of the mesophyll have increased enormously in size, forming a nearly solid tissue. The shape of the cells of the two lowest strata of the mesophyll, especially those just under the inferior epidermis and close to the midrib, has also been transformed. They have become much higher than broad, very much like the palisade-tissue of the superior face. The fibro-vascular bundles have been moved towards the superior face of the blade, but have not been modified essentially. Chlorophyll was rather scarce in these abnormal leaflets. This transformation is due to puncture of an insect made in the superior epidermis. Larvae were found in the younger ascidia, probably belonging to a *Cecidomyia*.—T. H.

¹ Étude des folioles anormales du *Vicia sepium*: Revue générale de Botanique, no. 23.